REMARKS

Claims 1 and 10 have been amended to claim a method for storing adhesive compositions consisting essentially of: (a) dispensing an uncured adhesive into a container having a flexural modulus of less than or equal to 1240 MPa. (in addition to the other recited limitations) (b) freezing the adhesive within the container, and (c) storing the adhesive while frozen.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 to 4, 7, and 10 to 13 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hull (WO 91/01711 A1) in view of Okamoto (JP 08-057051 A). Applicant respectfully traverses.

Hull discloses a medical dispensing system for making tissue adhesive components quickly available for surgical use and a process for preparing this system. This is accomplished by placing a solution or colloid containing the desired tissue adhesive component or components in a container, closing the container and freezing the solution or colloid in the container while the container is rapidly rotated around its axis to coat at least one interior surface of the container with a thin coating of frozen tissue adhesive component. This is a decidedly different method from the instant invention in which the container is not rotated and the walls are not coated with a thin film of the contents to store the adhesive. Moreover, it is stated that the Hull container can be made of some plastics, metal, or glass. Certainly, the grouping of metal and glass with plastics indicates that these are not flexible containers. Thus, Hull does not make obvious the instant invention. There is no teaching or suggestion in Hull to use a thin walled container, or a flexible container, for the method of storing a frozen adhesive, as now presented by amended claim 1.

The Okamoto patent is directed to a syringe for holding liquid medicines, the syringe prepared from PETD, a random copolymer of ethylene and TCD. TCD is a tetracyclododecene. Example 1 notes that the syringe was prepared from an ethylene/dodecene copolymer known as Apel 6509, a product of Mitsui Petroluem Chemical Co. Information from the website for Mitsui indicates that the Apel syringes, including 6509 (T) have a flexural modulus greater than 2400 Mpa. A print-out of that page is included for the Examiner's reference. Both the composition and the flexural modulus of the syringe used in the Okomoto patent

are distinctly different from the composition and flexural modulus of the syringe in the instant claimed method. There is nothing in Okamoto to suggest or teach a method for storing frozen adhesives, particularly not in a syringe as thin walled or a flexible as claimed in the instant invention.

Applicant respectfully urges the Examiner to the conclusion that the above references, alone or in combination, do not make obvious the current invention, and that the claims are in condition for allowance.